**<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u>**

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

**<u>Listing of Claims:</u>**

1. (Currently Amended): An image protection system, comprising:

a first image device, comprising:

a compression unit to ~~separate~~ <u>divide</u> an <u>original</u> image into <u>two image parts</u> ~~base image data and auxiliary image data~~ according to a compression technique, wherein <u>a first image part of the image parts is the base image data and a second image part of the image parts is the auxiliary image data, and</u> the base image data and the auxiliary image data respectively comprise a part of image contents comprising pixel values of the <u>original</u> image, and compress the base image data to compressed base image data according to the compression technique;

an encryption unit coupled to the compression unit to receive and encrypt the auxiliary image data to an auxiliary image data cipher; and

an image composing unit coupled to the compression unit and the encryption unit to receive and compose the compressed base image data and the auxiliary image data cipher into a protected image corresponding to the <u>original</u> image<u>, such that plaintext for the first image part and cipher for the second image part are in the protected image</u>.

2. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a second image device, comprising:

    an image decomposition unit to receive and decompose the protected image

        into the compressed base image data and the auxiliary image data cipher;

    a decryption unit coupled to the image decomposition unit to receive and

        decrypt the auxiliary image data cipher to the auxiliary image data using a

        decryption key; and

    a decompression unit coupled to the image decomposition unit and the

        decryption unit to receive the compressed base image data and the

        auxiliary image data, decompress the compressed base image data to the

        base image data, and combine the base image data and the auxiliary

        image data to recover the original image according to the compression

        technique.


3. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 2 wherein the first image device further comprises a transformation unit to perform discrete wavelet transformation on the original image in advance.


4. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 3 wherein the second image device further comprises an anti-transformation unit to perform anti-discrete wavelet transformation on the original image after the original image is combined.

5. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 4 wherein the first image device further comprises a quantization unit to quantize each coefficient of the <u>original</u> image after the discrete wavelet transformation.

6. (Previously Presented):     The system of claim 5 wherein the second image device further comprises an anti-quantization unit to anti-quantize each coefficient of the image before the anti-discrete wavelet transformation.

7. (Original):     The system of claim 1 wherein the compression technique is region of interest (ROI) compression.

8. (Original):     The system of claim 1 wherein the compression technique is resolution compression.

9. (Original):     The system of claim 1 wherein the compression technique is quality compression.

10. (Original):   The system of claim 1 wherein the compression unit further compresses the auxiliary image data.

11. (Currently Amended):     An image protection method, comprising the steps of:

~~Separating~~ dividing an original image into two image parts ~~base image data and auxiliary image data~~ according to a compression technique, wherein one of the image parts is the base image data and the other image part is the auxiliary image data, and the base image data and the auxiliary image data respectively comprise a part of image contents comprising pixel values of the original image;

compressing the base image data to compressed base image data according to the compression technique;

encrypting the auxiliary image data to an auxiliary image data cipher; and

composing the compressed base image data and the auxiliary image data cipher into a protected image corresponding to the original image, such that plaintext for the first image part and cipher for the second image part are in the protected image.


12. (Currently Amended):     The method of claim 11 further comprising an image recovery method, comprising the steps of:

decomposing the protected image into the compressed base image data and the auxiliary image data cipher;

decrypting the auxiliary image data cipher to the auxiliary image data using a decryption key;

decompressing the compressed base image data to the base image data according to the compression technique; and

combining the base image data and the auxiliary image data to recover the <u>original</u>

image according to the compression technique.


13. (Currently Amended):     The method of claim 12 further comprising

performing discrete wavelet transformation on the <u>original</u> image in advance.


14. (Currently Amended):     The method of claim 13 further comprising

performing anti-discrete wavelet transformation on the <u>original</u> image after the <u>original</u>

image is combined.


15. (Currently Amended):     The method of claim 14 further comprising

quantizing each coefficient of the <u>original</u> image after the discrete wavelet transformation.


16. (Currently Amended):     The method of claim 15 further comprising

anti-quantizing each coefficient of the <u>original</u> image before the anti-discrete wavelet

transformation.


17. (Original):   The method of claim 11 wherein the compression technique is

region of interest (ROI) compression.


18. (Original):   The method of claim 11 wherein the compression technique is

resolution compression.

19. (Original):   The method of claim 11 wherein the compression technique is quality compression.


20. (Original):   The method of claim 11 further comprising compressing the auxiliary image data.